

## **Contaminated Military Sites on Refuges of Southwestern Alaska**

### **ABSTRACT**

Military activities represent one of the longest-term and most geographically widespread contaminants-related issues in the state of Alaska. Significant military buildup occurred in Alaska during WWII and a strong presence continues even today. Though today's military activities are concentrated near Anchorage and Fairbanks, dozens of active, closing or closed facilities are located in remote areas within or adjacent to National Wildlife Refuge lands managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Contamination from these sites poses a significant challenge to Refuge managers and their staff when managing the resources with which they are entrusted. Adak and Amchitka Islands are just two examples of current cleanup efforts at contaminated military sites on Alaskan Refuges.